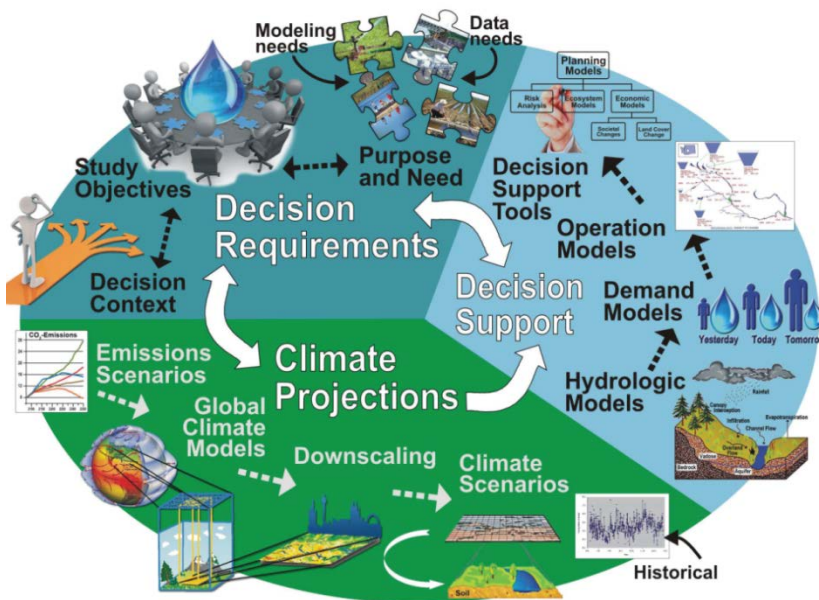


Considerations for Selecting Climate Projections for Water Resources, Planning, and Environmental Analyses

The SECURE Water Act directs Reclamation to evaluate the risks and impacts of climate change in long-range planning and decision making, including:

- Water resources and environmental analyses
- Planning studies
- Design and analysis of current and proposed infrastructure and operating plans

Considering climate change requires analyzing projected changes in weather and climate conditions and the effects of these changes on water supplies, demands, and management. This document provides an overview of important considerations in selecting climate projection information for use in water resources, planning, or environmental analyses.



Considering Climate Change

For any study, the study team must identify the decisions that the study will support (decision requirements) and the data and models required to support those decisions (decision support). In considering climate change, study teams must also select an appropriate source of climate change projections and incorporate those climate projections into the study data, models, and decision support tools.

The purpose of this document is to:

- Provide an overview of how climate projections are developed
- Discuss key considerations in selecting climate projections for use in a given study
- Briefly summarize available climate projection datasets and established methods for selecting climate projections for detailed analysis

Target Audience

Technical Specialists:

For technical specialists involved in selecting and using climate projections—e.g., climatologists, hydrologists, and water resources engineers—this document provides an overview of the models and methods used to develop climate projections and relevant considerations for selecting climate projections for analysis in a given study. This document also provides a detailed summary of available climate projection datasets and established methods for selecting climate projections for use in a detailed analysis.

Other Study Team Members:

For other study team members involved in interpreting and documenting the use of climate projections—e.g., planners, environmental specialists, and resource managers—this document provides an overview of how climate projections are developed and the choices and considerations involved in selecting climate projections for analysis in the study.

More information:

Information on guidance and updates to help consider climate change is at <http://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/wcra/>.